

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02016 221644Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /069 W
-----222152Z 041184 /67
R 221441Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5359

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, IS
SUBJECT: PORTWORKERS STRIKE

1. THE 4,500 STEVEDORES AND 300 PORT MAINTAINANCE WORKERS EMPLOYED IN HAIFA, ASHDOD, AND EILAT WENT ON STRIKE ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 22, BARRING THE SERVICING OF ALL CARGO SHIPS. THEY DEMAND MONTHLY WAGE INCREASES OF IL 600 AS COMPENSATION FOR THE WAGE INCREASES GRANTED TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES AND HAVE THREATENED TO MAINTAIN THE STRIKE UNTIL THEIR DEMANDS ARE MET.

2. PORT AUTHORITY DIRECTOR YITZHAK RAHAV INSISTS THAT THE CURRENT CONTRACT, WHICH WAS SIGNED FOUR MONTHS AGO GRANTING PORT WORKERS A 9 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE, REMAINS VALID. HISTADRUT LEADERS HAVE ASKED THE STEVEDORES TO RETURN TO WORK, PROMISING THEM THE SAME 4-5 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE WHICH THE HISTADRUT IS NOW TRYING TO NEGOTIATE FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS. HOWEVER, THE PORT WORKERS REMAIN ADAMANT IN THEIR DEMANDS AND HAVE THREATENED TO DEFY ANY COURT ORDER DIRECTING THEM TO RETURN TO WORK. A COURT DECISION IS EXPECTED MARCH 23.

3. THE STRIKE COMES AT A TIME WHEN PORTS ARE WORKING
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 02016 221644Z

AT FULL CAPACITY LOADING CITRUS FRUIT AND OTHER SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. ALL DOCKS ARE OCCUPIED WITH SHIPS WAITING TO BE LEADED AND MORE SHIPS ARE WAITING OUTSIDE THE PORTS. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SHIPPERS ARE AWARE OF THEIR VULNERABLE POSITION AND THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC DAMAGE WHICH A PROLONGED STRIKE WOULD CAUSE TO ISRAELI EXPORTS. ON THE OTHER

HAND, THEY FEAR, WITH GOOD REASON, THAT CAPITULATION
TO THE DOCKERS WILL ENCOURAGE FURTHER DEMANDS FROM
OTHER GROUPS. HOWEVER, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES EVERYONE
ASSUMES THAT AN EARLY COMPROMISE WILL BE AGREED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LONGSHOREMEN, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV02016
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTWORKERS STRIKE
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, IS
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Type: TE
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